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Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones and Mongolia

A meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), the South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty), South-East Asia (Bangkok Treaty) and Central Asia, as well as of Mongolia, was held on 27 and 28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar. The focal points discussed the implementation of the Tlatelolco declaration of 2005 as well as preparations for the follow-up Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia and for the 2010 Review Conference. Following the consideration of those issues, the Chairman is making the following statement:

1. We reaffirm the validity of the declaration of the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, adopted on 28 April 2005 in Mexico.

2. We reaffirm that the existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use constitute a threat to the entire human race and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for it. Hence nuclear disarmament, total prohibition and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons remain urgent tasks facing humankind. We support the Secretary-General's five-point proposal to revitalize the international disarmament agenda, which includes a call for negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament.

3. We welcome the positive signs that are emerging to reduce further nuclear arsenals as well as the recent "surge" in various ideas and proposals to address the pending issues of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as imperatives that humankind is facing today. These positive developments and trends taken together create a positive climate in which to pursue further the goals of a world free of nuclear weapons and of nuclear non-proliferation.

4. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.

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5. We reaffirm that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains an essential instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and reiterate the validity of the principles, obligations and rights contained therein, in particular in articles III, IV, VI and VII.

6. We are convinced that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements entered into freely among the States of the zone concerned promotes the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Respect for such zones by nuclear-weapon and neighbouring States constitutes an important nuclear disarmament commitment.

7. We reiterate our concern that though almost a decade has passed since the 2000 Review Conference, uneven progress has been marked in implementing the agreed nuclear disarmament measures. Therefore we urge all States to comply with the obligations set forth in article VI of the Treaty and elaborated further in the decisions of the Review Conference mentioned above.

8. We urge nuclear-weapon States to continue taking steps towards concluding an unconditional and legally binding universal treaty on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and to honour their commitments regarding security assurances until the treaty is concluded.

9. We welcome the entry into force of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty on 21 March 2009, the first such zone in the northern hemisphere and covering an area where nuclear weapons were previously based. With more rigorous safeguards provisions, it will make an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

10. We are looking forward to the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which would mark an important step towards attaining the objective of global non-proliferation.

11. We urge nuclear-weapon States and any other States listed or mentioned in the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones that have not yet signed or ratified the protocols to do so as soon as possible, and urge those that have made reservations or unilateral interpretations to modify or withdraw them.

12. We express full support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status. We welcome the start of the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude the required legal instrument and express the hope that it will soon result in the conclusion of an international instrument institutionalizing the status.

13. We reiterate our support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East as well as North-East Asia, South Asia and Central Europe.

14. We reaffirm the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty and urge those States that are not parties thereto to accede to it without delay or conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.

15. We reaffirm the commitments reflected in the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to further promote and strengthen the zones and to cooperate in promoting ratifications, where appropriate, by all States that belong to a nuclear-weapon-free

zone as a contribution to strengthening confidence and the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and achieving nuclear disarmament.

16. We reiterate our demand for the total elimination of all nuclear testing and stress the importance of the speedy entry into force of and the achievement of universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which would make a tangible practical contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament. Pending its entry into force, a moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions and on any other nuclear explosions needs to be maintained.

17. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop the research, production and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty. We further reaffirm that nuclear-weapon-free zones do not prevent the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.

18. We recognize the fundamental role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the application and verification of compliance with the international safeguards regime provided for in the Treaty and the relevant nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, as well as its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the international safeguards system.

19. Bearing in mind that disarmament and non-proliferation education can contribute to promoting a world free of nuclear-weapon threats, we encourage all States to promote programmes instilling the values of peace and disarmament.

20. We will continue preparations for the second Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia to be held in advance of the 2010 Review Conference. It is understood that a parallel civil society forum will also take place.

Ulaanbaatar, 28 April 2009